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REVIEWS AND NOTES

Political Parties in Oregon, 1843-1868. By WALTER C. WOODWARD. Illustrated. Portland, Oregon. The J. K. Gill Co. 1913. Pp. xii, 277.

Mr. Woodward, the author of this volume, is teaching in the Department of History and Political Science in Earlham College. He had his graduate historical training in the University of California under Professor H. Morse Stephens and Dr. E. I. McCormac. He was an Oregonian, but he is now an Indianian, and the historical students of Indiana welcome him heartily for the historical work he has done and gives promise of doing.

In the early days of our national life it was readily recognized that the sources of our nation's history were to be found chiefly in the States, in the life of the several distinct political bodies that had united to form the Union. Only by a knowledge of the men, deeds, and institutions of each local political community could be understood the life and spirit of the whole. Students of our national politics to-day are coming again to understand more and more fully the value to our national history of good local studies in the political life of the several States. Each State or section has its special interest, its special influence on the life of all, and each makes its special contribution to the story of our common growth. Qualified students of our history are devoting themselves to special studies in State history and are thus presenting valuable contributions to national history. As illustrations of this we may mention the three extensive volumes recently published on the *Political History of the State of New York*, by Mr. De Alva S. Alexander, and the more recent *Political History of the State of New York*, by Homer A. Stebbins. The history of State politics is replete with subjects for monographic studies. Professor Woodward, of Earlham, brings us one on the political history of Oregon from the beginning of the final diplomatic struggle for the possession of the Oregon Country to the close of Reconstruction. He relates the local story forcibly, connecting it up pertinently with our national history. He discusses the principle and basis of local self-government; the organization of the new Territory; its control under the Democratic régime; the influence of the sectional discussions over slavery in con-

nection with the Kansas-Nebraska excitement and the other controversies preceding the Civil War; the effect of the political change of 1860; and the issues of the Civil War and the struggle for the Union. "Old Joe Lane," of Indiana, the first Territorial Governor of Oregon, was a prominent character in this story. Lane became a pronounced pro-slavery man in active sympathy with aggressive Southern leaders who were urging on the extension of slavery. The general reader will be surprised to learn, as he may from Mr. Woodward's pages, that the Federal official class were exerting their whole influence in favor of the introduction of slavery into Oregon, in the days of James Buchanan. Lane, elected to the United States Senate upon the admission of Oregon into the Union, was aiding and abetting these efforts, and it was this record that led to Lane's nomination for the Vice-Presidency on the Southern Democratic ticket with Breckinridge in 1860. Lane was popular in Oregon and the Breckinridge-Lane electors came within less than 300 votes of carrying the State against Lincoln. Lane was an avowed Secessionist. He commended the South for its disunion policy and he hoped that Oregon would leave a Union that denied "equality and protection" to the States, and help to set up a "Pacific Republic." This policy ended Lane's popularity in Oregon as the majority there were for the Union and against slavery, and the "Copperhead" speeches of Lane could not turn the tide. Union Democrats and Republicans combined in 1861 to place Col. Edward D. Baker, another prominent national character from Oregon, in the United States Senate to counteract the influence of Lane, and Oregon became a pronounced Union State.

Professor Woodward presents many other interesting connections between Oregon and national politics in his valuable book. The volume will bring him credit and, as has been intimated, it will serve well to illustrate the rich field that is open to students of our national politics. Many good subjects corresponding to this worthy work on Oregon politics and many inviting periods are awaiting the willing and capable workers in Indiana history. The field will be entered more and more in the near future. Young men and women in our college and university historical seminaries are turning their attention in this direction for new themes for their doctoral dissertations. It will be found to be a profitable field and the result will be the production of much good material, which will prove of value to the future historian of the State as well as of the country at large.

J. A. WOODBURN.